

Remarks

Claims 1-32 are pending. No claim amendments are presented.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-21 and 29-32 contain allowable subject matter.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and passage of the claims to allowance.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-2, 5, 8 and 22-28 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 25 of copending Application No. 10/028,837.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the double patenting rejection, Applicants have executed and submit a Terminal Disclaimer by way of accompanying paper, disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted on the present application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term, as defined in 35 USC §§ 154 to 156 and 173, of the copending application No. 10/028,837.

In summary, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-2, 5, 8 and 22-28 has been overcome, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

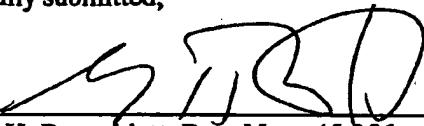
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Please contact the undersigned should there be any questions or in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

6/30/04

Date

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